

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following language as a separate paragraph after the first full paragraph on Page 5:

A' -- From DE A 2 053 110 a process for treating mineral surfaces is known with the surface initially being hydromechanically and subsequently treated with organo-silicide compositions causing hydrophobic effects. However, surfaces treated in such a way are not provided with the desired stain resistance. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3-10, 12 and 13. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121, the following is a clean version of the amended claims.

- A2
1. (Amended) A process for surface treatment of mineral materials comprising the following steps:
- a) effect of laser radiation onto the surface and
  - b) application of an organo-silicide composition onto the surface,

with the above-mentioned steps (a) and (b) being part of a treatment process essentially limited in time and which occur prior to further processing and/or use of said mineral materials.

- A3
3. (Amended) A process according to Claim 1, characterized in that by the effect of laser radiation, laser induced indentations are created with an average depth between 10 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , particularly preferred between 20 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .